Statement for the Record of Dr. Klaus Schafer
Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Chemical and Biological Defense
Before the House Government Reform Committee
Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations
U.S. House of Representatives
Hearing on "Assessing Anthrax Detection Methods"
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Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Members, I am honored to appear before your Committee. Good Afternoon. I am Dr. Klaus Schafer, the Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Chemical and Biological Defense. I am the Principal Deputy responsible for the oversight of the Chemical and Biological Defense Program (CBDP). The CBDP is responsible for all aspects of the Department of Defense's (DoD) fielding of operational chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense capabilities and installation force protection. The program has efforts across the acquisition life cycle, from basic research and development activity, advanced development and procurement of chemical and biological defense capability, and finally, the entire life cycle management of these fielded capabilities to ensure their quality and support while in the hands of the warfighter. I am accompanied this afternoon by Dr. David Cullin, Scientific Director, Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense.

The CBDP is aggressively engaged in the research and development of biological warfare (BW) detection and identification technologies. Among these are technologies geared to rapidly and accurately detect anthrax in environmental and clinical samples. Prior to September 11, 2001 (9/11), CBDP efforts had focused exclusively on developing capabilities for fielding by the operational military force. 9/11 forced a broadening of

CBDP focus to provide capabilities in support of installation force protection and emerging Homeland Defense missions. Many of these technologies are the backbone of today's response system protecting the American public.

In pursuit of these new missions, the CBDP has and currently is fielding these systems and continuing the development of new capabilities which focus on sensitivity and precision and the integration of these technologies into the broader interagency response community. However, while the end mission has changed, the early research and development of these capabilities still is founded on the same basic tenets used to develop capabilities for the operational force; more specifically sound science, and laboratory validation of technologies. This always is the first step in the eventual fielding of any capability.

In support of Installation Force Protection and Homeland Defense missions, the CBDP has taken a total systems approach for sample collection, the laboratory system for the routine analysis of aerosol samples, as well as confirmatory analysis of suspect samples from other sources. These capabilities are founded on technologies largely developed and validated in world class DoD laboratories , like USAMRIID and the Naval Medical Research Center, which are additionally recognized as definitive Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Laboratory Response Network laboratories. Technologies, protocols, and procedures developed in those labs, as well as others, are then transitioned into a network of laboratories providing capability to installation force protection. The CBDP has instituted an overarching Quality Assurance Quality Control

(QA/QC) program that involves not only the required documentation of all procedures and processes, but also continual proficiency testing to assure that the laboratories are performing equally within the framework designed. Furthermore, the CBDP is aggressively engaged with operational units to assure that decision making and risk assessment is coupled with the correct technical information, so that timely and accurate operational decisions can be made.

Finally, we have and will continue to coordinate the development of technologies, hand in hand with the requisite policy making, to create a proficient and capable system. The CBDP collaborates with the Assistant Secretaries of Defense for Homeland Defense and Health Affairs so that technologies developed under our purview can be integrated properly and seamlessly into the DoD medical response community. Furthermore, we work closely with the interagency to provide these desperately needed capabilities for national biodefense. To that end, we are collaborating with the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Health and Human Services to attain interoperability of BW collection, detection, and identification systems and to develop interagency response frameworks for protection of the American public. Because of DoD's implementation of a rigorous QA/QC program and constant oversight, we can provide assurance that the technologies, protocols, and procedures, developed and validated in the hands of scientists at the DoD labs, can and will perform with the required precision and accuracy in the hands of field operators. DoD is and will always stay committed to achieving the highest standards available to insure that our population is safe.

Subject to your questions, this concludes my opening remarks.